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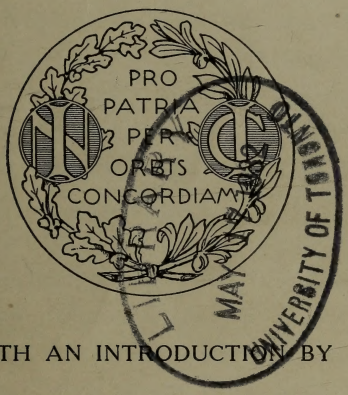
INTERNATIONAL CONCILIATION

SPECIAL BULLETIN

THE CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD WAR

AS REFLECTED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS



MAYOR UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS

SEPTEMBER, 1914

American Association for International Conciliation
Sub-station 84 (407 West 117th Street)
New York City

[1914]

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THE CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD WAR

AS REFLECTED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS

THE moral reaction of the people of the United States to the most appalling event in human history has been both too profound and too subtle for portrayal in words. Reports and letters may tell something of its extent, but no written document will convey its quality to future generations. Only the art that is older than writing and closer to the elemental emotions has been able in part to express it. The cartoonists have caught its spirit. Collectively their work is a document of startling fidelity, and of compelling power.

When the storm is spent and the desolation is complete; when the flower of the manhood of Europe has passed into eternal night; when famine and pestilence have taken their tithe of childhood and age, the exhausted and the beggared that live on will one day care to know what we, who saw the carnage from a far-away safety and sanity,

thought of it. This little book will tell them much that they will not find in more pretentious works.

They will read here not the argued opinions, but the spontaneous feelings, the deepest moral convictions of a people. They will look in vain for praise of glory or of power, for admiration of anything that enters into or comes out of war. They will not be able to detect even the anguish of defeat or the exultation of victory. They will read only that our hearts and minds responded to the deepest notes of the scale of tragedy—in horror, amazement, stupefaction.

What else were possible?

> "No death can further desolate
> The heart that knows its god was dust."

The world believed itself civilized, Christian! It was proud and strong and self-respecting. It rejoiced in the triumphs of science, in the mastery of nature, in the amelioration of the human lot. And then, in an hour, when mankind was happier than it ever had been before, disillusion came. The inhibitions had failed. Covenants, laws, moralities, decencies were forgotten. Human-

ity faced about, to rush insensate backwards over "the road to yesterday," to barbarism, to savagery. The rest we know.

Well! The task must be taken up anew. Once more the race must climb the stony road of toil and privation. Again it must try to chain the savage within itself. Will it this time succeed?

One thing we may hope and believe. A part of the energy that has hitherto been spent in producing material gratifications, often beyond all bounds of reason, may now be diverted by the stricken and sobered nations into other channels. With ripened wisdom, and a sterner resolve, the world may set about the work of improving the relations of man to man, of nation to nation. It may value enlightenment now, above riches. It may care, as it has not cared hitherto, for those things that are more than meat, more than raiment, more even than pride and power.

If these things happen, and not otherwise, disarmament may come, and peace.

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.

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THE ECLIPSE

Morgan in the Philadelphia Inquirer

BLESS YOU, MY CHILDREN!

Rehse in the New York World

THE REAL PATRIOT

Weed in the New York Tribune

THE MASSES MUST BEAR THE BURDEN

Coffman in the New York Evening Journal

THE MAN WITH THE SWORD

How will it be with kingdoms and with kings—
With those who shaped him to the things he is—
When this dumb terror shall reply to God
After the silence of the centuries?

—*Edwin Markham.*

Cesare in the New York Sun

WAITING

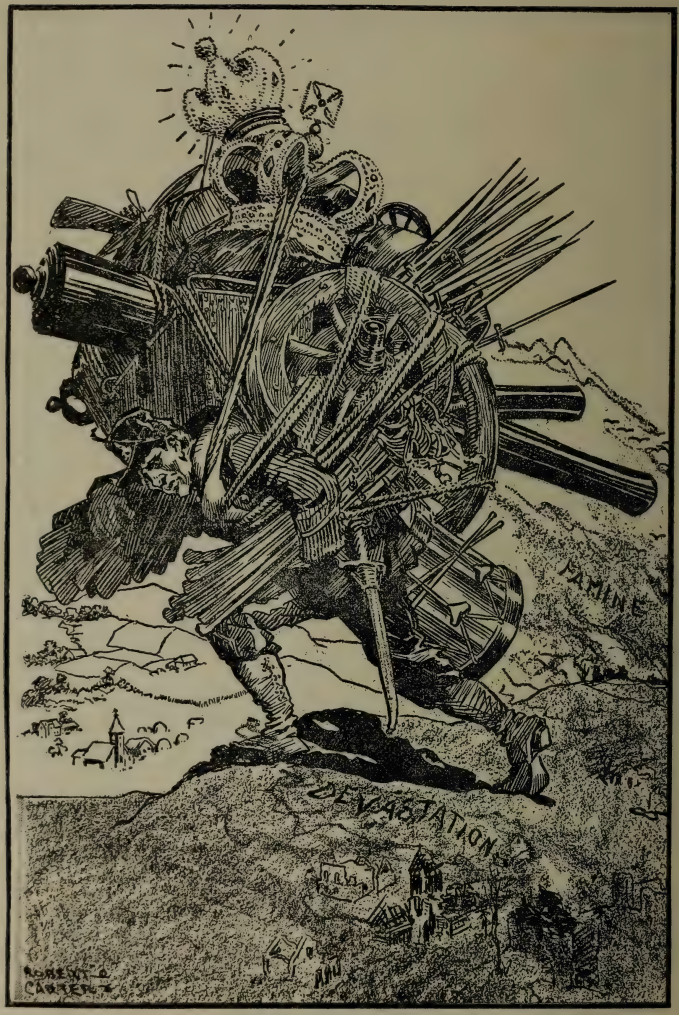
Osborn in the Baltimore News

THE BURDEN OF WAR

Bowen in the Chicago Herald

THE ADMIRAL

Kirby in the New York World



THE ARMY WORM

Carter in the New York Sun

THE LAST RAG OF CIVILIZATION

Rogers in the New York Herald

THE BEAST IN MAN

Donahey in the Cleveland Plain Dealer

NINETEEN CENTURIES AFTER CHRIST

Harding in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle

MURDER: I LOOK BETTER IN UNIFORM

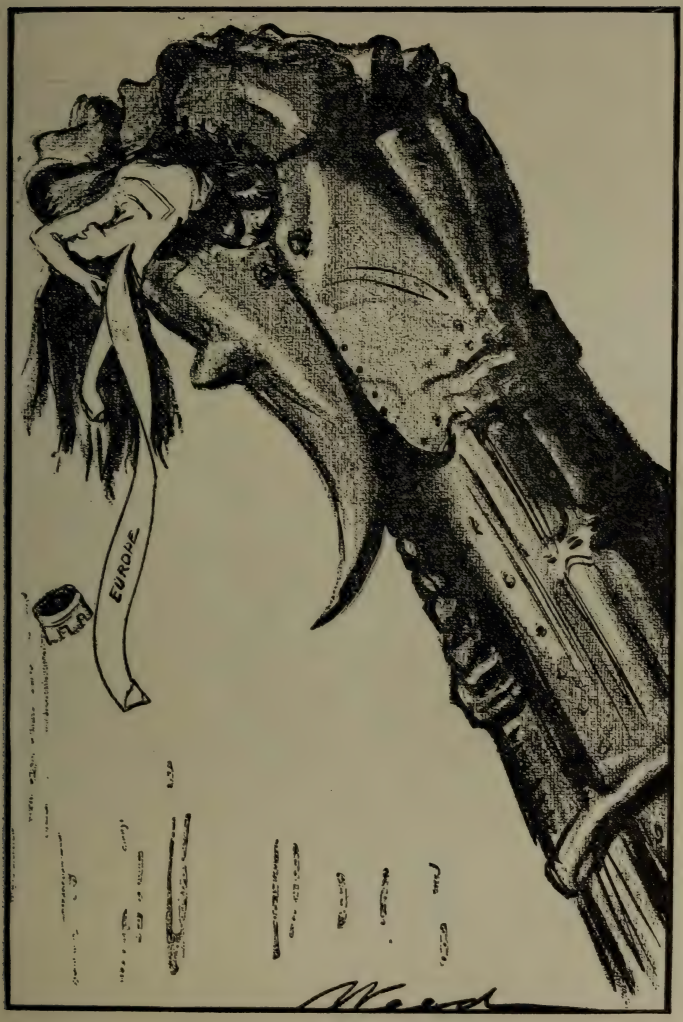
Fitz in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

THE WOLF AT THE DOOR

Kessler in the New York Evening Sun

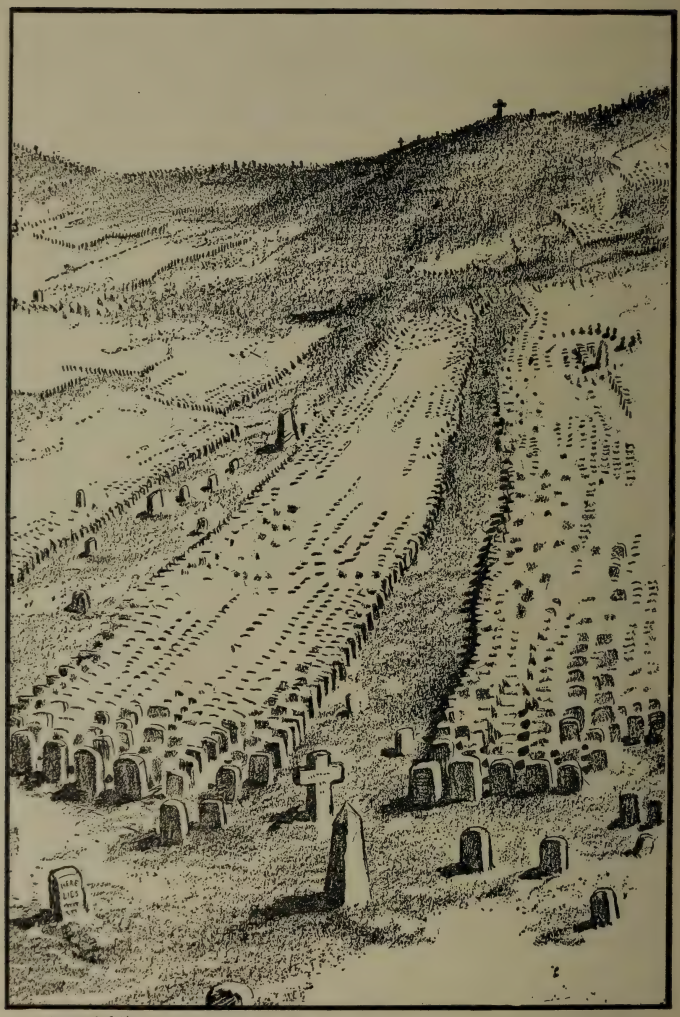
PRO PATRIA

Cesare in the New York Sun



THE MAILED FIST

Weed in the New York Tribune



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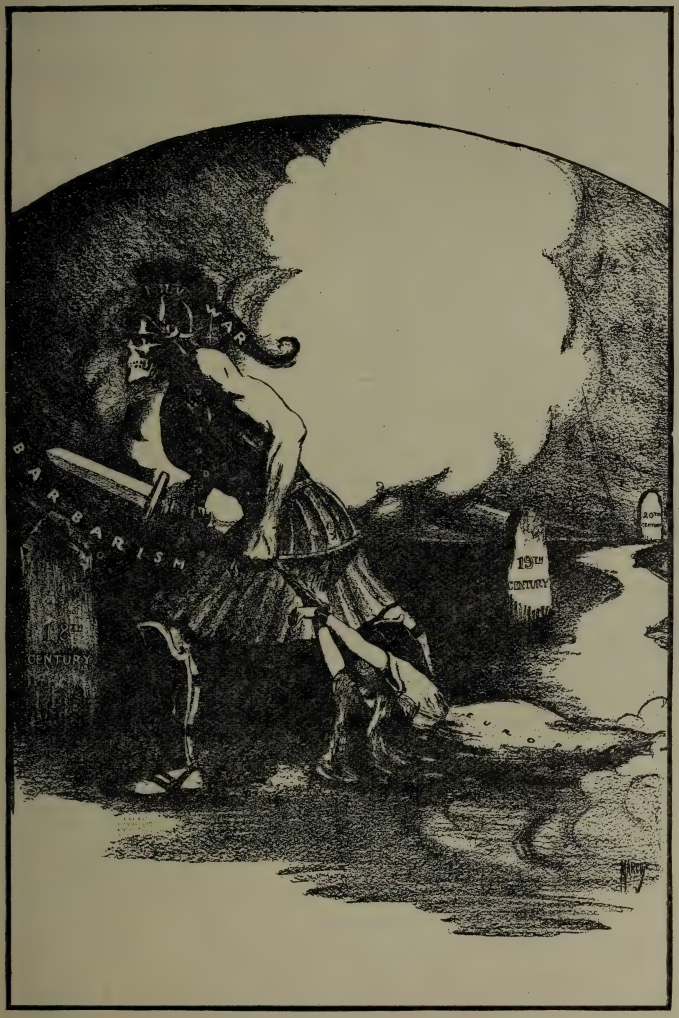
THE NEXT MOBILIZATION

Minor in the New York Evening World



THE ROAD TO YESTERDAY

Marcus in the New York Times

WHAT ARE THEY CHEERING FOR?

Cesare in the New York Sun

IT WAS LOADED

Sykes in the Philadelphia Public Ledger

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Nos. 1–66 (April, 1907, to May, 1913). Including papers by Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, George Trumbull Ladd, Elihu Root, Barrett Wendell, Charles E. Jefferson, Seth Low, William James, Andrew Carnegie, Pope Pius X, Heinrich Lammasch, Norman Angell, Charles W. Eliot, Sir Oliver Lodge, Lord Haldane and others. A list of titles and authors will be sent on application.

67. Music as an International Language, by Daniel Gregory Mason. June, 1913.

68. American Love of Peace and European Skepticism, by Paul S. Reinsch. July, 1913.

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A New Year's Letter from Baron d'Estournelles de Constant. December, 1913.

The A B C of the Panama Canal Controversy. Reprinted from The Congressional Record, October 29, 1913. December, 1913.

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83. Official Documents Bearing upon the European War.

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